

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

IO-10 HEW-02 /067 W

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R 201430Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4417

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0201

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOCI, PINT, SF

SUBJECT: NICO MALAN THEATRE NOT TO BE COMPLETELY DESEGREGATED

REF: CAPE TOWN 124

1. CAPE PROVINCE ADMINISTRATOR A.H. VOSLOO ANNOUNCED FEBRUARY 19 THAT PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAD DECIDED THAT, WITH RESPECT TO NICO MALAN THEATRE, "(1) ALL POPULATION GROUPS WILL BE ADMITTED TO THE NICO MALAN THEATRE COMPLEX FOR PERFORMANCES ON TUESDAY GN WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS, AND FRIDAYS; (2) THE PRESENT APPLICABLE RIGHT TO RESERVE ADMISSION REMAINS IN FORCE." MR. FRANS CONRADIE, EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER IN CHARGE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, LATER CONFIRMED THAT DECISIONHXEANT THAT PERFORMANCES ON MONDAYS AND SATURDAYS WOULD BE RESERVED FOR WHITES.

2. REACTION OF WHITE LIBERALS AND OF PROMINENT COLOREDS HAS RANGED FROM DISAPPOINTMENT TO DISGUST. SENATOR BRIAN BAMFORD, WHO INITIATED BOYCOTT OF NICO MALAN WHEN THEATRE OPENED FOUR YEARS AGO, SAID DECISION WAS "A BLOODY INSULT" AND ASSERTED THAT HE WOULD NOT ATTEND THEATRE AND WAS
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CONVINCED OTHER BOYCOTTERS WOULD NOT DO SO EITHER.

3. COMMENT: IT POSSIBLE THAT DECISION COULD BE CHANGED.
BAMFORD, FOR ONE, SAID THAT THERE WAS STILL HOPE THAT
IT WOULD. IN OUR ESTIMATION, HOWEVER, CHANCES ARE SLIM
THAT NATIONALISTS WILL RELENT IN NEAR FUTURE AND COMPLETELY
DESEGREGATE NICO MALAN. IT VERY LIKELY THAT DECISION WAS
EITHER MADE BY OR HAD APPROVAL OF PRIME MINISTER VORSTER
AND HIS CABINEO. HALFWAY MEASURE TAKEN INDICATES THAT
NATIONAL PARTY GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO BE HEAVILY INFLUENCED
BY CONSIDERATION FOR RACIST ATTITUDES OF MANY OF ITS SUPPORTERS.
HURD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DESEGREGATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAPET00201
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750060-1197
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750229/aaaaazjy.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CAPE TOWN 124
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NICO MALAN THEATRE NOT TO BE COMPLETELY DESEGREGATED
TAGS: SOCI, PINT, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006